

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for assessment of possibility of cystic lung fibrosis in humans, comprising measuring the level of CAP 18 in a biological sample, and correlating the measurement with cystic lung fibrosis by an increase in the level of CAP 18 as compared to a control sample and wherein said CAP 18 specifically reacts with an antibody that specifically reacts with a protein having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, 3 or 4.

2. (currently amended): A method for assessment of possibility of cystic lung fibrosis in humans, comprising the following steps (1) to (3):

(1) a step of measuring the level of CAP 18 contained in a biological sample collected from an individual;

(2) a step of comparing the CAP 18 level determined in step (1) with the level of CAP 18 in a control sample; and

(3) a step of correlating the result from step (2) with cystic lung fibrosis by an increase in the level of CAP 18 as compared to the control sample, and

wherein said CAP 18 specifically reacts with an antibody that specifically reacts with a protein having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, 2, 3 or 4.

3. (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the biological sample is expectoration or bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BALF).

4. (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the level of CAP 18 is measured through antigen-antibody reaction.

5. (original): The method according to claim 4, wherein the measurement through antigen-antibody reaction employs an antibody capable of binding to a peptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

6. (original): The method according to claim 4, wherein the measurement through antigen-antibody reaction employs a solid phase.

7. (currently amended): The method according to claim 6, wherein the measurement through antigen-antibody reaction employing a solid phase is performed through a method comprising the following steps (a) to (c):

(a) a step of bringing athe sample into contact with a solid phase, to thereby immobilize onto the solid phase CAP 18 contained in the sample;

(b) a step of causing the immobilized CAP 18 obtained in step (a) to be bound to "an antibody capable of binding to a peptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1," to thereby form a complex of the two components; and

(c) a step of detecting the complex formed in step (b).

8. (currently amended): The method according to claim 6, wherein the measurement through antigen-antibody reaction employing a solid phase is performed through a method comprising the following steps (a)' and (b)':

(a)': a step of bringing into mutual contact the following three components: ~~the~~ a solid phase to which a first antibody capable of binding to a peptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 has been immobilized, at the sample, and a second antibody capable of binding to a peptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, to thereby form a sandwich-like complex formed of "first antibody immobilized onto a solid phase - CAP 18 - second antibody"; and

(b)' a step of detecting the sandwich-like complex formed in step (a)'.

9. (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the assessment is selected from the group consisting of diagnosis; determination of the presence or absence of risk, or assessment of the level of the risk; assessment of severity and/or acuteness; and assessment regarding progress of disease.

10. (original): The method according to claim 2, wherein the biological sample is expectoration or bronchoalveolar lavage fluid (BALF).

11. (original): The method according to claim 2, wherein the level of CAP 18 is measured through antigen-antibody reaction.

12. (original): The method according to claim 11, wherein the measurement through antigen-antibody reaction employs an antibody capable of binding to a peptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

13. (original): The method according to claim 11, wherein the measurement through antigen-antibody reaction employs a solid phase.

14. (currently amended): The method according to claim 13, wherein the measurement through antigen-antibody reaction employing a solid phase is performed through a method comprising the following steps (a) to (c):

(a) a step of bringing athe sample into contact with a solid phase, to thereby immobilize onto the solid phase CAP 18 contained in the sample;

(b) a step of causing the immobilized CAP 18 obtained in step (a) to be bound to "an antibody capable of binding to a peptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1," to thereby form a complex of the two components; and

(c) a step of detecting the complex formed in step (b).

15. (currently amended): The method according to claim 13, wherein the measurement through antigen-antibody reaction employing a solid phase is performed through a method comprising the following steps (a)' and (b)':

(a)': a step of bringing into mutual contact the following three components: ~~the~~ a solid phase to which a first antibody capable of binding to a peptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 has been immobilized, the sample, and a second antibody capable of binding to a peptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, to thereby form a sandwich-like complex formed of "first antibody immobilized onto a solid phase - CAP 18 - second antibody"; and

(b)' a step of detecting the sandwich-like complex formed in step (a)'.

16. (original): The method according to claim 2, wherein the assessment is selected from the group consisting of diagnosis; determination of the presence or absence of risk, or assessment of the level of the risk; assessment of severity and/or acuteness; and assessment regarding progress of disease.

17. (withdrawn-amended): A kit for assessment of possibility of cystic lung fibrosis, comprising the following components (A) and (B):

(A) a solid phase, and

(B) an antibody capable of binding to a peptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

18. (withdrawn-amended): A kit for assessment of possibility of cystic lung fibrosis, comprising the following components (A)' and (B)':

(A)': a solid phase to which a first antibody capable of binding to a peptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 has been immobilized, and

(B)': a second antibody capable of binding to a peptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

19. (new): A method for assessment of possibility of cystic lung fibrosis in humans, comprising measuring the level of CAP 18 having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 in a biological sample, and correlating the measurement with cystic lung fibrosis by an increase in the level of CAP-18 as compared to a control sample.

20. (new): A method for assessment of possibility of cystic lung fibrosis in humans, comprising the following steps (1) to (3):

(1) a step of measuring the level of CAP 18 having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 contained in a biological sample collected from an individual;

(2) a step of comparing the CAP 18 level determined in step (1) with the level of CAP 18 in a control sample; and

(3) a step of correlating the result from step (2) with cystic lung fibrosis by an increase in the level of CAP-18 as compared to the control sample.